

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 ACDA-19 NEA-10 OIC-04 NIC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-11 COA-02 EUR-25

OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCI-06 RSR-01 /174 W

----- 073900

R 280635Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7150

INFO USUN NEW YORK 180

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 2014

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNGA BM

SUBJECT: KEY ISSUES AT 28TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REF: STATE 163147

SUMMARY: DURING DISCUSSION OF KEY UNGA ISSUES, MFA OFFICIAL INDICATED THAT BURMA WILL AGAIN ADOPT A PASSIVE STANCE IN KEEPING WITH GUB'S NON-ALIGNED POLICY AND WILL HARDLY TAKE ANY INITIATIVES. GUB'S PREOCCUPATION IN NEXT FEW MONTHS WITH DOMESTIC EVENTS LEADING UP TO PROMULGATION OF NEW STATE CONSTITUTION MAY SERVE TO DIRECT ATTENTION OF GOVERNMENT FROM UNGA MATTERS. LAW OF SEA WAS STATED TO

BE MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECT FROM GUB VIEWPOINT.
END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED REFTTEL ITEMS WITH DAW THAN HAN, CHIEF EUROPE AND AMERICA POLITICAL DIVISION, MFA, ON AUGUST 27, PROVIDED WRITTEN SUMMARY OF US VIEWS, AND SOUGHT GUB SUPPORT. AS USUAL, SHE WAS UNABLE TO DISCLOSE MUCH SPECIFIC INFO ON GUB ATTITUDES, BUT DID MAKE FOLLOWING COMMENTS.

2. KOREAN PROPOSAL. ROK PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL ENVOY MR. SHIN SANG
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CHUL HAD ARRIVED RANGOON, BUT NO INFO YET AVAILABLE ON HIS VIEWS.

3. WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE. GUB POSITION REMAINS UNCHANGED: FAVORS WDC IN PRINCIPLE BUT DOES NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE CONDITIONS ARE YET FAVORABLE AND DOES NOT PLAN TO CO-SPONSOR. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT PRC (PRESUMABLY PRC EMBASSY RANGOON) BELIEVES USSR MAY BE PLANNING SOME KIND OF INITIATIVE IN VIEW OF MOSCOW'S CONTINUING PROPAGANDA BARRAGE AGAINST PRC AND ITS ALLEGED NUCLEAR-MISSILE SUPER-POWER AMBITIONS.

4. MIDDLE EAST. GUB UNDERSTANDS UNSYG WALDHEIM PLANS ATTEND ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE.

5. FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. GUB FAVORS FINANCIAL STRINGENCIES SINCE UN HEADQUARTERS LOCATED IN US, WITH BULK OF EXPENDITURES THERE, AND LITTLE QCINT SEEN IN HAVING ASSESSMENTS IN CURRENCIES OTHER THAN DOLLARS.

6. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. GUB IS NOT VERY KEEN ON NEW UN BODIES BEING CREATED SINCE THEY CONSTITUTE DRAIN ON EXPENSES.

7. LAW OF THE SEA. PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEM FOR GUB. GUB NOT RPT NOT A MEMBER OF SEABEDS COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS REGRETTABLE FROM DAW THAN HAN'S VIEWPOINT. SHE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR VARIOUS DOCUMENTS WHICH EMBASSY HAS PROVIDED ON THIS SUBJECT.

8. DAW THAN HAN WAS SEMI-APOLOGETIC ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE PROVIDE MORE SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT ON GUB POSITIONS. SHE FELT CONFIDENT GUB WOULD NOT TAKE ANY INITIATIVES, AND IMPLIED THAT CUSTOMARY GUB PASSIVE STANCE WOULD BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

9. DAW THAN HAN ADDED THAT GUB TOP LEVELS WOULD BE PREOCCUPIED DURING NEXT FEW MONTHS WITH FORTHCOMING SECOND CONGRESS OF BURMA SOCIALIST PROGRAM PARTY, DECEMBER REFERENDUM, JANUARY ELECTIONS AND MARCH PROMULGATION OF NEW STATE CONSTITUTION. SHE STATED THAT THIS WAS TIME OF TRANSITION FOR GUB, WITH ORGANIZATIONAL AND POSSIBLE PERSONNEL CHANGES, AND IMPLIED THAT AFTER THESE DOMESTIC MATTERS WERE DISPOSED OF MORE ATTENTION MIGHT BE DEVOTED NEXT YEAR TO UN MATTERS.

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